

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) An apparatus for combining delivery of first objects from a first transport conveyor (34) with second objects from a second transport conveyor (40), comprising:

a first continuous discharge conveyor (36) for transporting the first objects received from the first transport conveyor, the first continuous discharge conveyor comprising a discharge end;

a second continuous discharge conveyor (42) for receiving the second objects from the second transport conveyor, the second continuous discharge conveyor comprising a receiving end with a longitudinal axis, and a discharge end, and being rotatable about the longitudinal axis;

means for pivoting the second discharge conveyor about the longitudinal axis between a lower position in which the discharge ends of the first discharge conveyor and the second discharge conveyor are adjacent, and an upper position in which the discharge ends of the first discharge conveyor and the second discharge conveyor are spaced apart sufficiently to accommodate the first objects therebetween; and

means for synchronizing the pivoting means with discharge of the first objects from the first discharge conveyor and discharge of the second objects from the second discharge conveyor.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 1~~ An apparatus for combining delivery of first objects from a first transport conveyor (34) with second objects from a second transport conveyor (40), comprising:

a first continuous discharge conveyor (36) for transporting the first objects received from the first transport conveyor, the first continuous discharge conveyor comprising a discharge end;

a second continuous discharge conveyor (42) for receiving the second objects from the second transport conveyor, the second continuous discharge conveyor comprising a receiving end with a longitudinal axis, and a discharge end, and being rotatable about the longitudinal axis;

means for pivoting the second discharge conveyor about the longitudinal axis between a lower position in which the discharge ends of the first discharge conveyor and the second discharge conveyor are adjacent, and an upper position in which the discharge ends of the first discharge conveyor and the second discharge conveyor are spaced apart sufficiently to accommodate the first objects therebetween; and

means for synchronizing the pivoting means with discharge of the first objects from the first discharge conveyor and discharge of the second objects from the second discharge

conveyor;

wherein the synchronizing means comprises a logic controller (28).

4. (currently amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 1~~ An apparatus for combining delivery of first objects from a first transport conveyor (34) with second objects from a second transport conveyor (40), comprising:

a first continuous discharge conveyor (36) for transporting the first objects received from the first transport conveyor, the first continuous discharge conveyor comprising a discharge end;

a second continuous discharge conveyor (42) for receiving the second objects from the second transport conveyor, the second continuous discharge conveyor comprising a receiving end with a longitudinal axis, and a discharge end, and being rotatable about the longitudinal axis;

means for pivoting the second discharge conveyor about the longitudinal axis between a lower position in which the discharge ends of the first discharge conveyor and the second discharge conveyor are adjacent, and an upper position in which the discharge ends of the first discharge conveyor and the second discharge conveyor are spaced apart sufficiently to accommodate the first objects therebetween; and

means for synchronizing the pivoting means with discharge of the first objects from the first discharge conveyor

and discharge of the second objects from the second discharge conveyor;

wherein the first objects and second objects are pressed dough tortillas, and the first and second transport conveyors are ~~tortilla~~ pressed dough conveyors.

5. (withdrawn) A system for pressing tortillas comprising:

a first tortilla press (30) for pressing dough into first tortillas, having a first press conveyor (34);

a first continuous discharge conveyor (36) for transporting the first tortillas received from the first press conveyor, comprising a discharge end;

a second tortilla press (32) for pressing dough into second tortillas, having a second press conveyor (40);

a second continuous discharge conveyor (42) for receiving the second tortillas from the second press conveyor, comprising a receiving end with a longitudinal axis, and a discharge end, and being rotatable about the longitudinal axis;

means for pivoting the second discharge conveyor about the longitudinal axis between a lower position in which the discharge ends of the first discharge conveyor and the second discharge conveyor are adjacent, and an upper position in which the discharge ends of the first discharge conveyor and the second discharge conveyor are

spaced apart sufficiently to accommodate the first objects therebetween; and

means for synchronizing the pivoting means with the first press conveyor, the first discharge conveyor, the second press conveyor, and the second discharge conveyor.

6. (canceled)

7. (canceled)

8. (withdrawn) A method for combining delivery of first objects from a first transport conveyer (34) with second objects from a second transport conveyer (40) comprising the steps:

receiving the first objects from the first transport conveyer onto a first continuous discharge conveyor (36) having a discharge end;

receiving the second objects from the second transport conveyer onto a second continuous discharge conveyor (42) comprising a receiving end with a longitudinal axis, and a discharge end;

intermittently pivoting the second continuous discharge conveyor about the longitudinal axis between a lower position in which the discharge ends of the first discharge conveyor and the second discharge conveyor are adjacent, and an upper position in which the discharge ends of the first discharge conveyor and the second discharge conveyor are spaced apart sufficiently to

accommodate the first objects therebetween,
synchronizing the pivoting of the second
continuous discharge conveyor with the first
discharge conveyor and the second discharge
conveyor;

discharging the first objects from the first
discharge conveyor while the second discharge
conveyor is in the upper position, and

discharging the second objects from the
second discharge conveyor while the second
discharge conveyor is in the lower position.

9. (withdrawn) The method of claim 8 wherein the
first objects and second objects are pressed dough, and the
first and second transport conveyors are press conveyors.

10. (previously presented) An apparatus for combining
delivery of first objects from a first transport conveyor with
second objects from a second transport conveyor, comprising:

a first continuous discharge conveyor for
transporting the first objects received from the
first transport conveyor, the first continuous
discharge conveyor comprising a discharge end;

a second continuous discharge conveyor for
receiving the second objects from the second
transport conveyor, the second continuous
discharge conveyor comprising a receiving end
with a longitudinal axis, and a discharge end,
and being rotatable about the longitudinal axis;

means for pivoting the second discharge

conveyor about the longitudinal axis between a lower position in which the discharge ends of the first discharge conveyor and the second discharge conveyor are adjacent, and an upper position in which the discharge ends of the first discharge conveyor and the second discharge conveyor are spaced apart sufficiently to accommodate the first objects therebetween; and

means for synchronizing the pivoting means with discharge of the first objects from the first discharge conveyor and discharge of the second objects from the second discharge conveyor;

wherein the pivoting means comprises a linear actuator.

11. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the synchronizing means comprises a logic controller.

12. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the first objects and second objects are tortillas, and the first and second transport conveyors are tortilla press conveyors.

13. (previously presented) An apparatus for combining delivery of first objects from a first transport conveyor with second objects from a second transport conveyor, comprising:

a continuous receiving conveyor;
a first continuous discharge conveyor for transporting the first objects received from the

first transport conveyor to the receiving conveyor, the first continuous discharge conveyor comprising a discharge end;

a second continuous discharge conveyor for transporting the second objects received from the second transport conveyor to the receiving conveyor, the second continuous discharge conveyor comprising a receiving end with a longitudinal axis, and a discharge end, and being rotatable about the longitudinal axis;

means for pivoting the second discharge conveyor about the longitudinal axis between a lower position in which the discharge end of the second discharge conveyor is adjacent to the receiving conveyor and an upper position in which the discharge end of the second discharge conveyor is spaced apart from the receiving conveyor sufficiently to accommodate the first objects therebetween; and

means for synchronizing the pivoting means with discharge of the first objects from the first discharge conveyor and discharge of the second objects from the second discharge conveyor.

14. (new) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the pressed dough objects are tortillas.